

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 7-11, 14, 15, and 17-34 are pending in the application. In the April 17, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner required election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following allegedly patentably distinct species as shown in the claim groups:

- I. Figs. 2A-2C (single mailbox, electron beam source);
- II. Fig. 3 (single mailbox, heat source);
- III. Fig. 4A (single Mailbox, UV Source);
- IV. Fig. 4B and 6 (single mailbox, gas source); and
- V. Fig. 5 (group mailbox having plurality of doors, gas source).

The Examiner stated that claims 26, 27 and 34 are generic.

Applicant elects Group III having the generic claims and claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 17 and 25.

CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that any issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

AUTHORIZATION

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-428.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The

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Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-428.

Respectfully submitted,



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